

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:)	Group Art Unit: 1742
)	
Robert A. DiMilia)	Examiner: WILKINS III, HARRY D.
)	
Serial No.: 10/716,973)	
)	
Filed: November 19, 2003)	
)	
Confirmation No.: 7574)	<u>RESPONSE TO</u>
)	<u>OFFICE ACTION</u>
)	
Atty. File No.: 03-1842)	
)	
For: "STABLE ANODES INCLUDING)	
IRON OXIDE AND USE OF SUCH)	
ANODES IN METAL PRODUCTION)	
CELLS")	

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This correspondence is responsive to the Office Action having a mailing date of May 10, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of the Claims, which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on Page 3 of this paper.

It is not believed that any additional fees or any extension(s) of time are due in connection with this response. However, any necessary extension(s) of time is/are hereby requested and any additional fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2775.

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A stable anode for use in an electrolytic metal production cell, where the anode is a material selected from the group consisting of Fe_3O_4 , Fe_2O_3 , FeO and mixtures thereof, where at least one of Fe_3O_4 and Fe_2O_3 is present, and where the anode may optionally contain additive.

20. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the iron oxide is from zero to 100 weight percent Fe_3O_4 , from zero to 100 weight percent Fe_2O_3 , and from zero to 50 weight percent FeO , where at least one of the iron oxides Fe_3O_4 and Fe_2O_3 is present.

21. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the iron oxide is Fe_3O_4 .

22. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the iron oxide comprises is Fe_2O_3 .

23. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, further containing up to about 10 weight percent of an additive selected from oxides of Al, Si, Ca, Mn, Mg, B, P, Ba, Sr, Cu, Zn, Co, Cr, Ga, Ge, Hf, In, Ir, Mo, Nb, Os, Re, Rh, Ru, Se, Sn, Ti, V, W, Zr, Li, Ce, Y and/or F.

24. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the anode is a monolithic body.

25. (Previously Presented) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the anode has a surface coated with the iron oxide.

26. (Original) The stable anode of Claim 19, wherein the anode remains stable in a molten bath of the electrochemical cell at a temperature of up to 960°C .

27 - 29. (Canceled)

Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reevaluation and further processing of the application is requested. Prior to amendment herewith, Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-26 were pending in the application. By amendment herewith, Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-18 have been canceled. Claims 19-26 are now pending in the application.

The following remarks are intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action having a mailing date of May 10, 2006. In that Office Action, the Examiner restricted the claims as follows:

Group I: Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-18, drawn to a method of producing aluminum by electrolysis, classified in class 205, subclass 387.

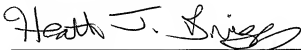
Group II: Claims 19-26, drawn to an anode for use in a method of producing aluminum by electrolysis, classified in class 204, subclass 291.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the Group II claims, namely Claims 19-26.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that it would be helpful to discuss any of the amendments or remarks presented herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP



Heath J. Briggs
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 54,919
1200 17th Street, Suite 2400
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 572-6500
Fax: (303) 572-6540

Date:

June 9, 2006